

Refuge, 10 miles south of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland, June 27, 1938, *N. Hotchkiss* No. 5924.

Professor Fernald informs the writer that this is the first record of the species between Nantucket, Massachusetts and Norfolk, Virginia. It appeared as much at home along the margin of a road through a brackish marsh as does its relative, *Sabatia*.

BACOPA ROTUNDIFOLIA (Michx.) Wettst. (*Macuillamia rotundifolia* (Michx.) Raf.). Lake Mattamuskeet, Hyde County, North Carolina, June 13, 1929, *N. Hotchkiss* and *L. E. Ekvall* No. 3742.

Neither Small's Manual nor F. W. Pennell's "The Scrophulariaceae of Eastern Temperate North America," 1935, reports this species from any of the East Coast States.

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
Washington, D. C.

THE FIRST RECORDED OCCURRENCE OF *DISTICHLIS* *SPICATA* IN THE CENTRAL INTERIOR OF THE UNITED STATES

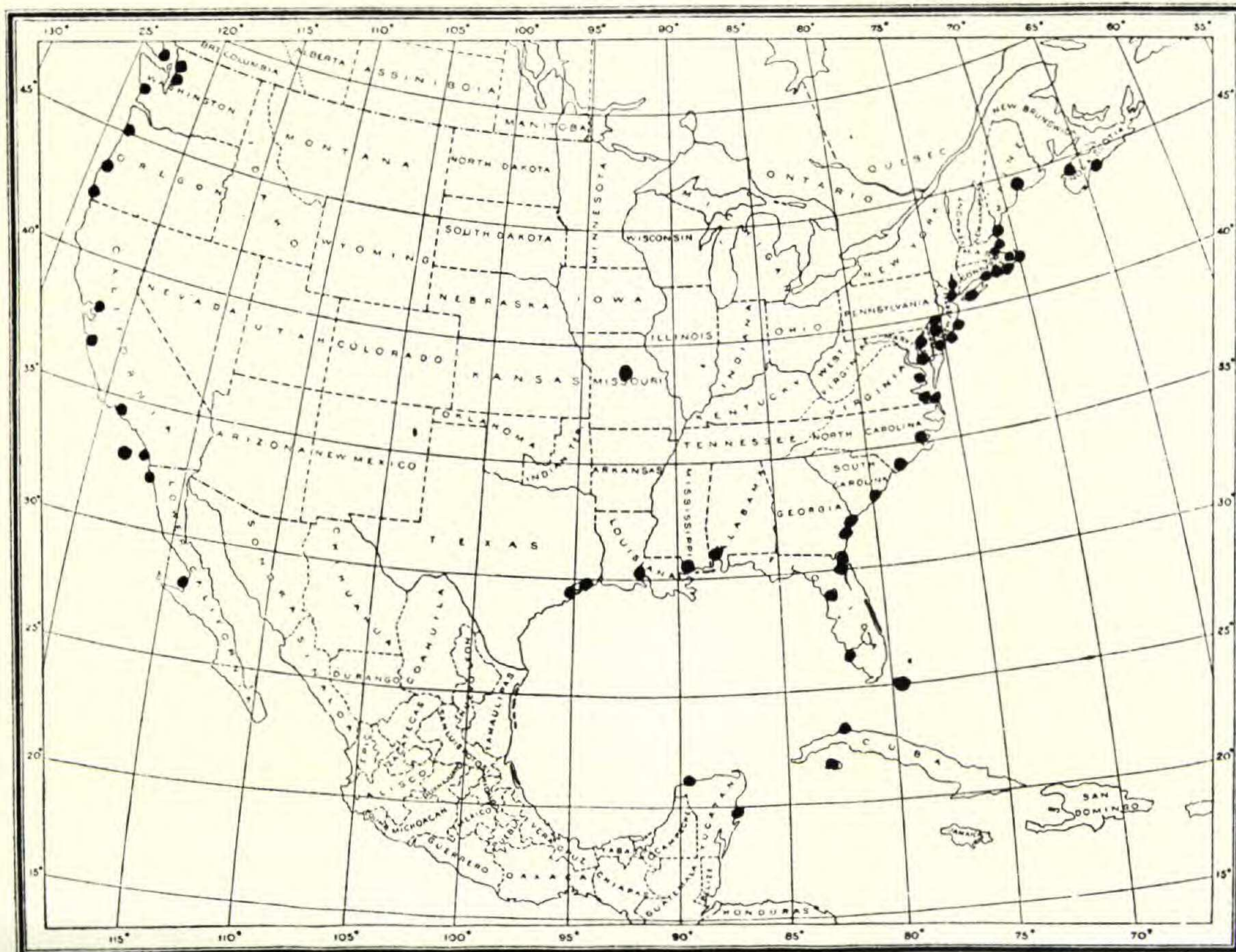
JULIAN A. STEYERMARK

THE GEOGRAPHICAL distribution of *Distichlis spicata* in the United States is more or less coincident with the location of salt marshes along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts. The distributional map of this species in the United States in A. S. Hitchcock's Manual of the Grasses¹ shows it following the seacoasts, although Mr. J. R. Swallen, Agrostologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington, D. C., in a letter to the writer, states that it is known also from a few inland localities in Texas.

In Missouri the only species of *Distichlis* previously recorded was *Distichlis stricta* (Torr.) Rydb., a plant of alkaline soil of the interior, chiefly the western half of the United States, from Saskatchewan and Minnesota to eastern Washington, south to Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, California, and Mexico. In Missouri it is known, not from alkaline soils, but rather from cinders and clay soil along railroads where it has been introduced into the western part of the state in Buchanan and Jackson counties.

¹ A. S. Hitchcock, Manual of the Grasses of the United States. U. S. D. A. Misc. Publ. 200: p. 177, fig. 350. 1935.

While collecting in the fall of 1938 in Saline County, central Missouri, the writer discovered a large grass-covered area in the valley of Heath's Creek bordering salt springs and salt licks. The "flat" had the appearance of salt marshes which I had seen along some of the estuaries of the New England coast. In this particular valley in Missouri, the salt grass took full possession of the area and gave it a



DISTRIBUTION OF *DISTICHLIS SPICATA* IN THE UNITED STATES

pale green color. For several acres it covered the valley bottom to the exclusion of all other plants. At first I thought I had found a new county record for *Distichlis stricta* and that here was a natural salt-lick habitat for it. Subsequent examination of the flowers and comparison with herbarium material revealed the plants to be actually *Distichlis spicata*. Specimens sent to Dr. M. L. Fernald and Mr. Jason R. Swallen were verified as *D. spicata*. The Missouri record is, therefore, the first known to the central interior of the United States.

This isolated salt marsh in central Missouri, along with others in Saline, Cooper, and Howard counties, is a good example of the interior

isolation and possible stranded relic nature of a number of maritime species. Around a nearby salt spring were growing brackish-water plants, such as *Typha angustifolia* L., *Eleocharis parvula* (R. & S.) Link, var. *typica* (according to Dr. H. K. Svenson), *Zannichellia palustris* L. var. *major* (Boenningh.) Koch, and *Scirpus campestris* Britton, var. *paludosus* (A. Nels.) Fern. All these species occur in brackish or salt marshes along the Atlantic coast and are rare inland, especially in the case of *Eleocharis parvula* var. *typica*. That the salt lick in Saline County revealed the very surprising natural stand of *Distichlis spicata* and that it had escaped the attention of botanists in Missouri and elsewhere for over a hundred years seems almost remarkable, and is one further proof of the need for extensive exploration of not only Missouri, but other states.

The writer's collection is from the valley of Heath's Creek, east of Elk Lick Springs, Sect. 17, 3 miles southwest of Ridge Prairie, Saline County, Oct. 6, 1938, *J. A. Steyermark 21581*, and specimens have been deposited in Gray Herbarium, Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium, Herbarium of Field Museum, and the Agrostology Herbarium of Smithsonian Institution.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
Chicago, Illinois

ABOUT *UTRICULARIA PURPUREA*.—In Mr. G. B. Rossbach's paper on "Aquatic Utricularias" (*RHODORA* 41: 121. 1939) I read that *U. purpurea* has recently been "found in Montreal Co., Quebec." Inasmuch as the author draws the inference that "it grows near the city of Montreal, and therefore in the low valley of the St. Lawrence River, as is to be expected of a generally coastal plain plant extending northward," I think it useful to make a correction.

There is no such thing as a Montreal County in Quebec. We know *U. purpurea* in Quebec not in the low valley of the St. Lawrence River, nor south of the St. Lawrence River, but in the boggy lakes of the Laurentian mountains north of Montreal, at some elevation over the floor of the valley. The nearest known station is about forty miles north of Montreal, and the northernmost at least one hundred miles. We have yet made no attempt to explain this striking disruption of range, but indications are that the migration is through the Ottawa hydrographic system.—FR. MARIE-VICTORIN, Université de Montréal.

Volume 41, no. 492, including pages 561-615, plates 480-483, and the title-page of the volume, was issued 22 December, 1939.